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Chickasaw National Recreation Area News Release

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Summer Camping Season Beginning at Chickasaw National Recreation Area

SULPHUR, OK — The Lake of the Arbuckles (Arbuckle District) is slowly receding back to its normal conservation pool level. Park staff is currently evaluating the effect of the high waters on park infrastructure and are working diligently to reopen visitor services. Visitors are asked to be patient as a significant amount of inspection, cleaning, and repair is needed prior to reopening facilities. Until waters recede and for the duration of the event, boats are prohibited from launching from Lake of the Arbuckle boat ramps. This measure is being taken to provide for visitor safety and protection of property. “With the lake level only 1.53 feet below the surcharge pool we are still unable to safely open any boat ramps yet. It may be some time before we are even able to determine the full extent of damage to facilities and infrastructure. We ask that visitors enjoy other areas of the park while we wait for water to recede and make repairs associated with the high water levels,” said Chickasaw National Recreation Area Chief Ranger Aaron Shandor.

The Buckhorn campgrounds and day use areas remain closed at this time from the effects of flood waters. Areas affected are as follows: Buckhorn campgrounds and day-use areas, Buckhorn boat launch ramp, Point day-use area, Point boat launch ramp, Guy Sandy day-use area, Guy Sandy boat launch ramp, Catfish Bottoms, Blackjack Road, Eagle Bay, East Hunting Area and Bluestem Prairie. As conditions permit these areas will be reopened. For up-to-date information about facilities reopening, visit www.nps.gov/chic, call the Travertine Nature Center at (580) 622-7234 or visit the park on Facebook.

Point and Guy Sandy campgrounds, located at the Lake of the Arbuckles are open for camping. Reservations for the Point campground can be made by calling 877-444-6777 or contacting www.recreation.gov.

While closures remain in effect in the Arbuckle District, stream conditions in the Platt Historic District have returned to those typically associated with summer. Visitors are now enjoying swimming and wading in Travertine and Rock creeks. Visitor day use and camping in the Platt Historic District at Cold Springs, Rock

Creek, and Central campgrounds are now returning to typical summer season visitation.

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About the National Park Service

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 407 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.